

The Nurseries,
York.

18 - 1 - 1881

Dear Dr Gray

I was much pleased to see your letter; I warmly welcome you to our land! If you should eventually be able to visit York, it will give me much pleasure to have you & Mrs Gray under my roof - should you be able to make a stay here?

Most gladly will I send you strong plants of both the Cypripedium (specabile & pubescens) that are "certain to flower" (as far as we can judge).

But I cannot think of making any charge. I am only glad to be able - in a very small way - to requite your past kindness! But nothing can be sent now! The mean temperature here (for 4 consecutive days & nights) has been under $+9^{\circ}$ Fahr! The minimum being $-5\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$

Three nights running, the temp. averaged less than -1°

This seems almost "American"! It is the greatest ^{continuous} cold ever recorded here, I believe.*

Believe me yours
Very sincerely

W. Backhouse

P.S. You will doubtless let me know when & how to send the Cypripis if the frost continues.

* "Last year" for a few hours, the mercury fell to $-6\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$